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Yucca House National Monument

Colorado National Parks

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## 1952 Master Plan of Development Outline for Yucca House National Monument: page 12

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Master Plan Development Outline

Yucca House National Monument, Colorado

1. INTRODUCTION

a. Statement of Significance

This area, located on the eastern slope of Sleeping Ute Mountain, is the site of a group of prehistoric pueblo ruins of great extent and major archeological importance. Few walls rise above the surface but the masses of debris indicate that much of the monument area is covered with ruins. These ruins are of major archeological significance for they are outstanding examples of the massive valley pueblos which were common during the Classic Pueblo Period. Excavation and study will clarify problems of the archeology of Mesa Verde National Park and other areas.

b. General Theme of Development

The development of this area awaits a carefully planned long range archeological program of excavation and research by the National Park Service or some accredited scientific institution. Until such time its preservation, as it now stands, is highly important for it contains one of the finest ruins of its kind. Once excavated, refined and enduring stabilization methods must be applied so that it may be opened to public visitation. Its proximity to a heavily traveled highway will facilitate interpretation and bring problems of protection and preservation.

No effort should be made to encourage public visitation at this time and the monument should be considered as a reserve area restricted for eventual research.

Protection is now given to the area by a low enclosing fence with a stile, barring livestock but not visitors, and by unscheduled occasional trips of the Hovenweep ranger during the summer months and staff members of the Coordinating Superintendent's office at Mesa Verde National Park at other times.